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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017

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Kari Bazian and
her dog Mona.
KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Animal lovers push for more pet-friendly patios

metroNEWS

Man versus machine ... machine won

TECHNOLOGY

Computer made by U of A alumni defeats top go player in China

A University of Alberta computing-science professor says a clean sweep by a computer at a man-versus-machine competition in the ancient game of go is bittersweet.

Ryan Hayward says it means the retirement of AlphaGo, a machine developed by a pair of University of Alberta alumni.

AlphaGo won all three matches against China's top player, Ke Jie, at a go summit in Wuzhen, China, last week.

AlphaGo was developed by the team at Google DeepMind led by University of Alberta PhD graduate David Silver and former post-doctorate fellow Aja Huang.

Go is considered more difficult than chess for machines to master because the near-infinite number of possible positions requires intuition and flexibility.

"Three years ago if you'd asked me, I would say I would not see in my lifetime a computer program beat a human at the game of go," Hayward said in Edmonton.

Go players take turns putting white or black stones on a rectangular grid with 361 intersections, trying to capture territory and each other's pieces by surrounding them.

Hayward explained that the heart of the computer is a number of algorithms that recognize patterns in a go game.

He said Google has already used the algorithms to reduce energy consumption in their server farms by 20 per cent and they may also have applications for medical diagnoses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dr. Elaine Hyshka, a member of Access to Medically Supervised Injection Services and assistant professor with the University of Alberta's school of public health. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Mayors take lead on opioid crisis

HEALTH

Health officials praise caucus' push for federal action



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Public health experts in Edmonton are applauding a push from Canada's mayors for action on opioid deaths.

The Big-City Mayors' Caucus released a report Thursday on the opioid crisis calling for co-ordinated action from all levels of government, and on the federal government specifically to establish a standardized format for the collection of overdose data with quarterly public reports.

"In previous drug crises we have seen the municipal governments take leadership, and a lot of drug policy progress has been made at the municipal level first and then scaled up," said Elaine Hyshka, a member of Access to Medically Supervised Injection Services and assistant professor with the University of Alberta's school of public health.

"It is, I think, a very positive thing to see the mayors speaking out and calling forcefully for more support from the provincial and federal levels."

Hyshka said the recommendations — which also include

expanding access to a range of treatment options and adopting a national action plan to address root causes of addiction — show that "we know what to do to respond to the crisis, and we just need the political will at all levels of government to do that."

She said the federal government has a critical role to play in co-ordinating surveillance systems for monitoring overdose deaths. Currently, each province has its own system and reporting varies widely.

"We don't have up to date, real-time data on EMS calls, hospitalizations and overdose mortality. And that's something we desperately need in this country," Hyshka said.

Hakique Virani, a public health doctor and director of Metro City Medical Clinic, said the recommendations in the call to action are encouraging but he would like to see officials go a step further.

"Decriminalization of substance use across the board is necessary," Virani said. "It's what's worked in other jurisdictions when they've faced overdose crises, and when they've been witnessing increasing toxicity of illicit supplies, which is essentially what we're seeing now."

Mayor Don Iveson is part of the task force, which includes 13 mayors across Canada.

A spokesperson for federal health minister Jane Philpott said the Public Health agency of Canada is working with provinces and territories through the

Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses, and has developed a common quarterly reporting template for opioid-related deaths.

"Minister Philpott is committed to using every lever at her disposal to combat this crisis, and to working with all levels of government and partners across the country to do so," said spokesperson Andrew MacKendrick.

BY THE NUMBERS

113

The number of Albertans who died from an apparent fentanyl-related overdose in Alberta in the first quarter of 2017. That's up significantly from 70 in the first quarter of 2016.

91

The percentage of fentanyl-related deaths in the first quarter of 2017 that occurred in larger urban municipalities.

196

The number of apparent non-fentanyl-related opioid deaths in Alberta throughout 2016.

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WHITEMUD CREEK

Protect creek from motorboats: Group

A local environmental group wants the city to protect rare fish habitat in Whitemud Creek by banning the motorboat drivers they say wreak havoc in the narrow waterway.

"They have no regard for the environment and no regard for the wildlife on that creek," said Wayne Oakes, a retired RCMP officer, during the debate at the community and public services committee on Friday.

But the city's hands are tied, because waterways fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

However, city staff told councillors at the committee meeting they will work with police and provincial fish and wildlife officers to monitor reckless behaviour. Signs will also be installed to discourage boat drivers from entering the creek.

But that approach doesn't go far enough, according to Charlie Richmond with the Sierra Club.

He asked councillors to lobby the federal government to restrict access altogether.

"This current approach is not going to work on people who are going to violate anyway," he said. "Squabbling over who has jurisdiction is ridiculous. It's time to proceed with the full meal deal."

Zooming vessels in the creek also present safety problems, said Oakes.

"They have a lack of regard for other potential vessel users. They're speeding past these hairpin curves," he said, noting boat users could face charges of careless operation, or criminal negligence causing injury or death if a severe collision occurs.

"There's going to be a very tragic collision that could result in significant harm to human life or loss of human life."

Apparently convinced, councillors on the committee voted to recommend tasking administration with beginning to work on developing a federal application to restrict boats from entering the creek.

That move will require city council approval next week.

JEREMY SIMES/METRO



Environmentalists want the city to protect Whitemud Creek by banning motorboats in the narrow waterway. CONTRIBUTED

Owners pushing for dog-friendly patios

RESTAURANTS

Calgary has two licensed by Alberta Health Services



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Dog owner Kari Bazian's doesn't mind tying her pooch Mona outside the patio fence when enjoying lunch at local restaurants, but it's far from ideal.

"Dogs aren't always comfortable on the street where everyone is passing by," she said. "The dog can be on edge and the people can be on edge because they're concerned for the dog."

While some Edmonton restaurants allow dogs to sit outside the patio, their leashes tied to the gate, some dog lovers say it doesn't have to be this way.

Dog-friendly patios where pups can actually sit with their humans are on the rise in Calgary — the city has two — but Edmonton doesn't have a single one.

In Alberta, restaurant owners now have the option to allow pets on patios, as long as they get the nod from Alberta Health Services.

Phoebe Fung, owner of Calgary restaurant Vin Room,



Kari Bazian and her dog Mona. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

spent about a year working with the provincial health authority to make her patio work for both humans and pooches.

She sought approval, she said, because she wanted to enjoy a glass of wine with her Pomeranian outside on the patio.

"It's like the new nuclear family: Two people and their pet," she said. "As long as people are responsible about it, I think it would be great to see more."

At Vin Room, pooches get homemade treats, beds and a drinking fountain. They all must be vaccinated and, if one

is misbehaving, staff have the right to tell their owner to leave.

"It's been very positive so far," Fung said, noting the restaurant has human-only nights from Thursday to Saturday. "Dogs of all sizes have shown up, from my eight-pound Pomeranian to a 100-pound rescue. They figure out how to get along with each other."

Bazian points to Statistics Canada numbers that show Edmontonians have more pets than kids, and argues there's a business case for being more accommodating to animals.

"Why wouldn't business-

es want to capitalize on this niche, but large, group of dog owners?" she said.

Kerry Williamson, spokesperson with Alberta Health Services, said officials are always happy to work with operators to help them understand regulations.

In an email he said restaurants who want dog-friendly patios must list all "control measures" that would minimize potential health hazards, and "adverse incidents" that could be caused by animals.

"We must always ensure that public safety is our first priority."

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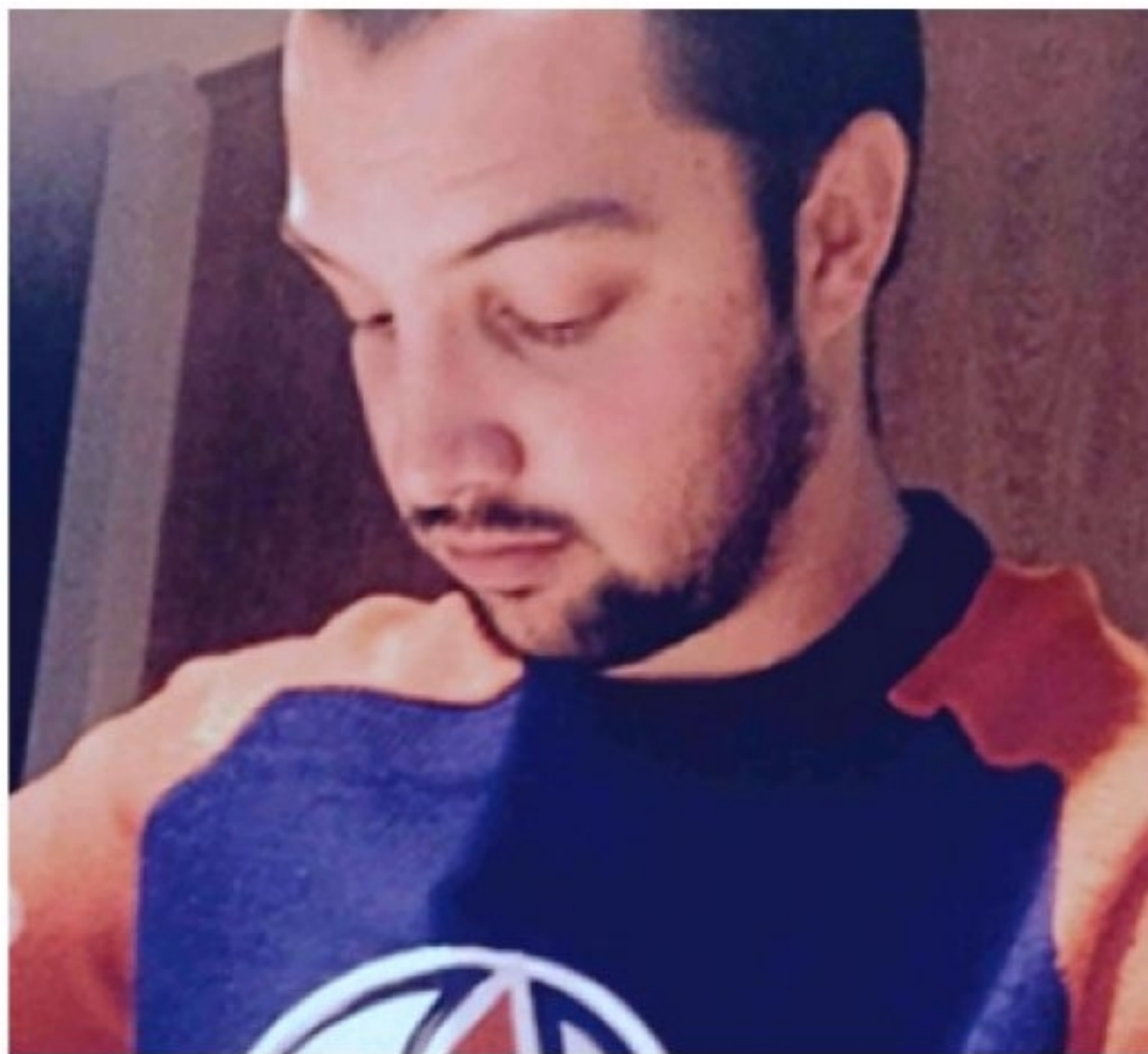
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Edmonton junior high school teacher Marc Daigle will appear in court June 7. METRO FILE

Teacher facing child porn charges

CHILD WELFARE

No information if students were targeted: Board

The superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools says ALERT has "no information to suggest" the teacher charged with child porn offences offended against any students.

In an emailed statement, Supt. Joan Carr said the school district is continuing to work with ALERT, and asked anyone with information to come

forward.

ALERT said Friday that they are charging Edmonton junior high school teacher Marc Daigle with child pornography offences, after a six-month investigation by their Internet Child Exploitation team.

According to a news release, the ICE team arrested Daigle, 26, Wednesday with the help of Edmonton police. He teaches at St. Nicholas Catholic Junior High School and is also a private music teacher.

Daigle is charged with possessing, accessing, and mak-

ing available child pornography. Police searched his home using a warrant and seized a number of "computer and electronic devices."

The investigation started in December 2016 after the RCMP got a tip about a "social media user" uploading child porn, the release said.

Daigle has been released from custody on a number of conditions, including not holding employment where children under the age of 16 are present. He appears in court June 7.

METRO

DEBT

Province credit rating dropped

Alberta's credit rating has once again been knocked down over concerns of rising debt levels and unbalanced budgets.

S&P Global Ratings says it has reduced the province's rating two notches from AA to A+ on its expectation of continued high deficits in the next two years as Alberta tries to stimulate the economy.

"Our assessment of the province's budgetary performance ... has significantly deteriorated and is materially weaker compared with that of both domestic and international peers," the

agency said.

S&P criticized the province for not introducing any material measures of fiscal restraint in the spring budget, and instead waiting for oil prices to recover to bolster its finances.

Finance Minister Joe Ceci said that the NDP government made a choice to keep spending to



Joe Ceci. CP

foster growth, rather than to make budget cuts to please bond raters.

He said efforts are starting to pay off. Alberta's economy is expected to grow 2.6 per cent this year, the highest rate in Canada.

"Had we made deep cuts that might have satisfied some bond raters, it would have resulted in a much deeper and longer recession," said Ceci.

He also rejected S&P's suggestion that the province could raise taxes to improve its fiscal position.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kidnapped woman escapes

INTERNET RISKS

Flew to Atlanta for modelling job, then held captive

Police say an Alberta woman lured to the United States with a promise of modelling work was instead held against her will in a trailer and jumped through a plate-glass window to escape.

"She sure did," said Creed Hashe, chief deputy in Pickens County, S.C.

Hashe said there was no answer when officers arrived at the trailer's door, but they heard a scream and someone running inside seconds before the woman dove through the window into the front yard.

"She was treated and released at a local hospital. Her and her family are on the way back to Canada. She's doing great in consideration of everything she's been through," he said.

Police said the woman, described as being between 18 and 25, flew to Atlanta last week for what she believed was a modelling job and had

been talking with the accused for a couple of months.

He agreed to pay her \$15,000 for her work which would not involve "nudity or acts of sexual behaviour," said Hashe.

He said the accused paid for her airline ticket to Atlanta and picked her up.

Police allege she was held captive and sexually assaulted after he threatened her safety and the safety of her family in Canada. They said the ordeal lasted five days, but she was able to escape.

\$15,000

Amount woman was originally promised for modelling that was not to involve "nudity or acts of sexual behaviour," according to U.S. police.

lowed to contact her family via Facetime as her captor watched. Somehow she was able to signal her location and give clues that she was in danger.

Her family contacted the RCMP who notified local authorities. They managed to track the couple by using cell-phone signals.

"The information we were receiving back was bouncing between multiple counties, so there was a delay in locating them because they were moving in a vehicle."

Police said they broke into the barricaded trailer where they found a suspect in a rear bedroom. They say he held deputies at bay with a knife to his own throat before finally surrendering.

"A lot of times I guess people put too much confidence in the Internet or social media. Sometimes they get lured into things that are not as legit or as genuine as they wanted them to be," Hashe said.

"Unfortunately, it's a target-rich environment for people who are trying to prey on people that they can lure into their schemes and criminal activity."

Fred Russell Urey, 38, of Norris, S.C., is charged with kidnapping and criminal sexual conduct. Hashe said Urey was known to police but only for previous drug arrests.

"When you start talking about charges for kidnapping and criminal sexual conduct, in South Carolina those are extremely serious offences," he added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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LEADERSHIP RACE

Can Andrew Scheer lure young voters from Liberals?



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

With Andrew Scheer, the Conservative Party picked the youngest leadership choice available this past weekend, but it's unclear whether that will be enough to attract key younger voters.

At 38, Scheer is younger than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau or current NDP Leader Tom Mulcair.

The Conservatives lost in 2015, not because their core support left them but because a new crop of 18- to 34-year-old voters turned out to support Justin Trudeau.

James Hawkes, 25, is among Scheer's supporters. Joined by fellow party members in Saskatoon, where he is involved with campus Conservatives, he watched his preferred candidate come to victory. Hawkes has no



Andrew Scheer, centre, newly elected leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, with his rival Maxime Bernier, left, following his win on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

doubt Scheer will be able to bridge the generational divide.

"He's the closet thing we have had to a millennial in any of the major parties," he said. "Andrew is going to appeal to youth, definitely."

Hawkes said millennials don't all think the same way and Scheer's pledge to remove funding from universities that don't protect freedom of speech will have broad appeal.

"They don't feel they're allowed to speak about what matters to them and their beliefs

on various topics."

Quito Maggi, president of Mainstreet Research, polled extensively on the race. He said even though Scheer is younger he's unlikely to tap into the youth vote.

"Despite Andrew Scheer's appearance and age they picked the wrong candidate to appeal to millennials," said Maggi. "With his ideology, with his policy background, I don't think he is going to have an easy time."

He said Scheer's social con-

servatism — even if he is committing not to legislate on it — is going to be a tough sell for younger voters.

Maggi said he believes Scheer is banking on those voters staying home or gravitating to a new NDP leader in 2019.

"He's not interested in increasing the size of the Conservative tent," he said. "There is no real interest in reaching out."

Scheer, a father of five, had one message to younger voters in his acceptance speech Saturday night.

POLITICS

Trudeau, Scheer talk trade during first call

New Conservative leader Andrew Scheer's victory speech was peppered with attacks on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

But on Sunday, the two spoke by phone in the aftermath of Scheer's win, one that now also makes him the official Opposition leader in the House of Commons. Trudeau called Scheer from Italy, where the prime minister is currently on a state visit following the G7 summit.

"They discussed issues of importance including making Par-

liament work for Canadians and the important relationship with the United States," read a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

"They agreed to meet in person in the coming weeks."

Despite the proforma call, the Liberals have not wasted time attacking Scheer, either, painting him as an extremist, with his call for an end to federal funding for universities that don't guarantee free speech on campus.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS

PM to raise residential school apology with Pope

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to raise reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the global fight against climate change and the importance of religious and cultural diversity when he meets with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Monday.

There, he will also ask the pontiff to issue a formal apology in Canada for the role of the Catholic Church in the resi-

dential school system.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission included the demand for a papal apology — to survivors, their families and communities — among the 94 recommendations in its report on the dark history and legacy of residential schools. The Liberal government has promised to act on all of them.

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COFFEE

Many rich returns

Peruvian Café de Monteverde

By: Sean Deasy



Café de Monteverde makes Peru worthy of revisiting for coffee lovers

Certain countries have so much to offer that they're worth exploring again and again. The same can be said for some of the world's coffee-producing nations. Peru, for instance, produces some of the planet's best coffee, and is a leader in organically grown beans. And when it comes to flavour, the South American coffee giant is certainly no one-trick pony, yielding vastly different types of beans depending on the region.

Café de Monteverde is a perfect example. Located in Rodríguez de Mendoza in the Amazonas region of northern Peru, this co-op actually produces varieties that include Arabica, Typica, Catimor, Caturra, Pache and Catuai.

And that's within just one region: whatever your

Peruvian coffee of choice, it's very much the product of its local origin.

"You have different mountain ranges, different sunlight, different shade, different soil, different rainfalls," says Eric Shabsove of Mountain View Coffee in Toronto, chief curator of the Headline Coffee series. "There are all kinds of different micro-climates throughout the country. All this translates into wonderfully unique taste characteristics. Beans from one farm next to another farm won't necessarily taste the same. That's what's exciting about going back to a country like Peru and trying a different region."

Café de Monteverde's coffees are shade grown at an altitude of 1,400–1,800 meters above sea level. Thanks to the micro-climates particular to

Rodríguez de Mendoza, growers can harvest all year long, with increased production between April and December. The harvest begins by selecting mature red cherries to ensure a greater concentration of sugars. Beans are then pulped, washed and fermented (fermentation is typically an 18- to 24-hour process).

The outcome is a bean that creates a smooth and well-balanced coffee. It's exquisite taste—delivering on the promise of a wonderful aroma—is a rich body of brown sugar and refined caramel notes. Café de Monteverde coffee may indeed have the perfect ratio of sweetness to acidity, says Shabsove.

Facts & figures

The Café Monteverde co-op was founded in 1989—comprising 12 families with deep roots in agriculture, conservation and education—to better serve the needs of local coffee producers. That meant striving to improve technical support to farmers, encourage best environmental practices and help its members reach international markets.

The significance of opening that door to wider markets cannot be understated.

Shabsove explains:

"Not that long ago, farmers in this region still had very small farms—perhaps half an acre, or two or three acres of land. And they would pick their harvest, come down from the hills with their donkeys or mules, and they try to sell their coffee to the buyers who would be at the bottom of the hill. Sometimes there might have been only one buyer there." Tragically, says Shabsove, these farmers were typically taken advantage of, simply because there wasn't a consistently reliable source of buyers for their coffee. "And so any price, invariably, would have to be the price they got," he laments. "But with

the advent of Café Monteverde, it presented all kinds of advantages including, ultimately, by establishing a fair set price."

Repping the region

Today Café de Monteverde represents several producer organizations, including La Flor del Café, comprised of nearly 300 Fairtrade (FLO) and Organic certified producers. The co-op provides technical assistance and training for its members, financing and marketing services and helps manage the producers' organic and Fairtrade certifications.

It also offers mentorship and training to help farmers manage their resources and enhance their agricultural productivity. Individual meetings occur throughout the year covering topics such as soil conservation, pest management, harvesting and cultivation.

These are tangible benefits for farmers who produce high quality coffee, and that includes the provision and installation of solar drying tables and fermentation tanks. These benefits are real incentives for farmers to continually improve their coffee quality and processing techniques.

Sustainability soars

As part of the co-op's commitment to the environment, Café de Monteverde is assessing projects that would benefit their surrounding land and community. Project proposals include efforts to use more efficient irrigation systems, creating a sanctuary for local flora and fauna and developing better waste management systems.

This is organic coffee production at its best: The co-op is deeply involved with their farmers at every stage, including the planting of seedlings, water conservation, maintenance of soil fertility, organic matter composting and organic methods of pest control.

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Britain still on high alert, probe ongoing

BOMBING

More arrests made after terror attack in Manchester

British police made two more arrests and stormed three more locations Sunday as they hunted for suspects in the Manchester bombing, while a government minister said members of attacker Salman Abedi's network may still be at large.

Greater Manchester Police said two men — one 25 years old and the other 19 — were arrested in the city on suspicion of terrorist offences. Eleven other men between the ages of 18 and 44 also were in custody.

Most of the searches and arrests since Monday night's bombing have been in multi-ethnic south Manchester, where Abedi the son of Libyan parents — was born and raised.



Armed police stand at the start of the Great Manchester Run in Manchester, England Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Police say that 1,000 people are working on the investigation, trying to track down Abedi's accomplices and piece together his movements in the days before he detonated a bomb at an Ariana Grande concert. The explosion killed 22 people — including seven children under 18 — and injured more than 100.

Abedi died in the blast. Investigators say they have dismantled a large part of his network, but

expect to make more arrests.

"The operation is still at full tilt," Home Secretary Amber Rudd said, adding that some suspects could remain at large.

"Until the operation is complete, we can't be entirely sure that it is closed," she said.

British police now have 13 suspects in custody — including Abedi's elder brother Ismail — and have searched properties across Manchester, a city

+ STATEMENT

American singer Ariana Grande says she will return to Manchester for a benefit concert to raise money for attack victims and their families. Grande said details are still being finalized.

in northwest England. Another brother and Abedi's father have been detained in Libya. Police have released surveillance-camera images of Abedi on the night of the attack that show him dressed in sneakers, jeans, a dark jacket and a baseball cap. The straps of a backpack are visible on his shoulders.

Authorities are appealing for more information about his final days. They say he returned to Britain from Libya on May 18, and likely completed assembling his bomb at a rented apartment in central Manchester.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARAWI

Philippines forces battle militants

Philippine forces found corpses in the streets of a besieged southern city on Sunday, including at least eight civilians who appeared to have been executed, as soldiers battled a weakened but still forceful group of militants linked to Daesh. The death toll from six days of fighting neared 100.

The crisis in Marawi has grown increasingly dire as the militants show unexpected strength, fending off a military that has unleashed attack helicopters, armoured vehicles and scores of

soldiers. The violence prompted president Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday to declare 60 days of martial law in the southern Philippines, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has raged for decades. But the recent bloodshed in Marawi has raised fears that extremism is growing as smaller militant groups unify and align themselves with Daesh.

Much of the city is a no-go zone, but as the military advances more civilians are escaping.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHITE HOUSE

Trump eyes overhaul to tackle Russia crisis

President Donald Trump is considering overhauling his White House staff and bringing back top campaign strategists, frustrated by what he views as his team's inability to contain the burgeoning crisis involving alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Expanding teams of lawyers and experienced public relations

hands are being recruited to deal with the drumbeat of new revelations about Moscow's interference and possible improper dealings with the Trump campaign and associates. The disclosures dogged the president during his first trip abroad since taking office and threaten to overwhelm and stall the agenda for his young administration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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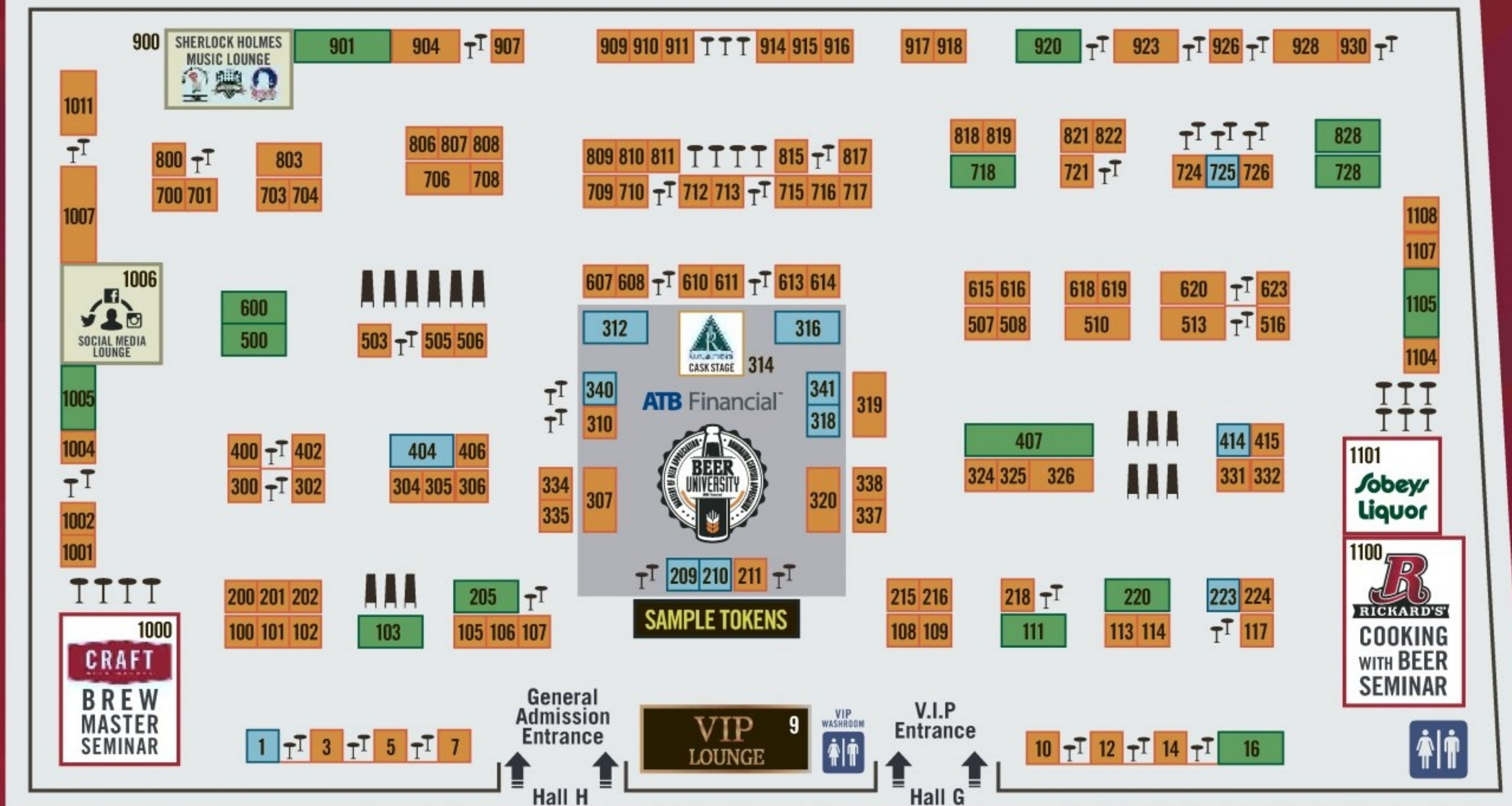
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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



THE QUESTION Do I really have to use preferred pronouns?

Dear Ellen,

My 22-year-old son has a friend who looks and sounds female to me, but he says she is "non-binary," meaning not male or female. I'm supposed to call her "they" or "them." I try my best, but I find it all very confusing and often forget to use the correct pronoun, which makes my son furious. He says I'm being terribly rude and insulting, but isn't it a bit rude to expect me to change how I talk just to accommodate someone else's radical political views?

Confused Mom

Dear Confused Mom,

Wowza, ma'am. You have opened a giant tinderbox here, but it's a good one, and increasingly relevant, so let's discuss.

First, consider a similar language issue from another era. Before the term Ms. came in, men were identified as Mr., regardless of marital status, while women were identified as "Mrs." or Miss. In other words, with a simple honorific, society instantly divided women into married (off limits, i.e., sexually unavailable) or single (sexually available if young, or proven sexual reject if older).

Many chauvinists (male and female) fought the use

of Ms., suspecting (correctly) that it threatened the patriarchal status quo by chipping away at how female humans overall are seen and defined. But in terms of etiquette, the rules are on the side of Ms. — that is, if you believe etiquette means treating all human beings as equal (which it does). Simply put, all humans are equally entitled to keep their marital status private in public and on paper. So the use of Ms. has rightly prevailed, and we should all use it, unless a woman insists on

being called Mrs., in which case one should politely respect her wishes to be so identified.

Your non-binary pronoun question is complex, but similar. The request feels unreasonable because it doesn't make sense to people who grew up thinking the world was male or female, period. It helps if you try to understand that "being" male or female, or neither, is not a choice or a "radical political view." It's a real feeling, rooted in a sense of personal identity.

But whether you understand this or not, or like it or not, the right thing to do is respect your son's friend's request and make an effort to use the neutral pronoun.

Don't worry if you make mistakes — as long as you proceed in good faith and make an honest effort, they can be politely patient with, and appreciative of, broad-minded you.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
askellen@metronews.ca



Ani Castillo

With reality-TV flair, Tories choose 'nice guy'



Vicky Mochama
Metro | Toronto

Poised to pick a bombastic-yet-unknown reality TV businessman then finding a leading contender in a Quebec libertarian, the Conservative Party of Canada picked a man who definitely has a Wikipedia page.

The Saturday night selection of Andrew Scheer was done with a dramatic panache worthy of some of the best reality television producers. It is a nail-biting style that, let's be honest, I did not think the Conservatives had.

Polls closed at 4 p.m., but the party didn't announce a leader until well into the evening.

This could be thanks in part to the fairly technical way the party votes for its leader, involving ranked ballots and a complex points system.

Back in 2004, they had to figure out all this by hand, but this year the process has been automated.

In all likelihood, the computer had already done the math by 4:30 p.m., and was onto planning world domination by the time the Conservatives crowned Scheer.

But why squander the chance to own the airwaves? And why not become a trending topic on social media where I, a millennial without cable, could follow along as people united to hate on Kevin O'Leary?

The producers of America's Next Top Model, The Bachelor, Survivor, Project Runway and other fine reputable fare could not have done better. It would only have been more delightful if, in Andrew Scheer's first speech as leader, he announced that he wasn't here to make friends.

In round after round, Maxime Bernier led the ballots until the very last one in which Scheer juuust outscored him.

In many ways, it reminded me of the first season of Paradise Hotel when after a season of mostly being ahead, Dave, an affable kind man, ended up being screwed over by his partner, Charla, a "nice girl" with the heart of a super villain.

Sure, the nice guy won on Saturday, but at what cost?

For most Canadians, Scheer is not well known. A field of 14 candidates during an unruly time did not help him. As the country heads towards the 2019 election, the stakes are high: modest overall economic growth is being challenged by a recession affecting Calgary and Edmonton, and a heated housing market in Toronto and Vancouver — while internationally, an overgrown and dangerous infant threatens the stability of global peace.

The party managed a couple hours of drama. Now they'll have to produce several seasons of the Scheer Show.

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When life's stranger than *fiction*

TELEVISION

Trump's reign renders House of Cards irrelevant

Tony Wong
life@metronews.ca

Spoiler alert: Story has details of previous seasons

Frank Underwood is a killer.

We know this because the fictional president once shoved a reporter in front of a subway car. Finely and indulgently played by Kevin Spacey, Underwood is mercurial, cunning and the most dangerous man on television.

Yet current events have conspired to make the infamous fake president seem reduc-

tive and, improbably, smaller than life.

House of Cards returns for a fifth season, with Spacey and first lady Claire Underwood (Robin Wright) as the rulers of an alternate Camelot, a kind of sociopathic Bill and Hillary Clinton. At any other time this would be substantive, trippy entertainment. The darkness of the show played well during the seeming naïveté of an Obama administration.

And then came Donald Trump.

Spacey plays Underwood on TV like it was written by Shakespeare, a politician who plays three-dimensional chess when the other guys are playing hopscotch after a dozen beers. The beauty of House of Cards was that it took you deep into the bowels of the West Wing, while our anti-hero president vanquished foes like a true Master of Whisperers. It sometimes took an entire season to pass a crucial piece of legislation using those dark arts. But the details were exquisite.

Now there is Trump. Suddenly it's apparent that you don't need experience, or smarts, or even a basic understanding of world affairs to be president. While Spacey's playbook is right out of Machiavelli's The Prince, Trump is absurdly cartoonish, his clumsy manoeuv-



Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright return for a fifth season of House of Cards. CONTRIBUTED

res stolen from WrestleMania. That's not surprising, since the president sits in the WWE Hall of Fame.

With Trump we have learned that sophistry does not win you points. Or an election. Why be like Frank Underwood, delicately tap dancing through

Congress when the blunt instrument of an executive order is far more to the point?

With the fictional President Underwood, the devil is in the details. And he'll tell you so himself, as the new season returns to breaking the fifth wall. Underwood plays to the cam-

era, gleefully relaying the mischief he's up to. You only wish he had a handlebar moustache to twirl when he's doing it.

Trump doesn't care about the fine print, and so far, despite stumbling past his first 100 days, he's still gamely hanging on, a wounded, angry

creature. Underwood's southern charm is benign by comparison.

Like HBO's comedy Veep, about a narcissistic, over-the-top politician clinging to power played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, House of Cards has been usurped by reality. It's hard to satirize a president who is satirizing himself.

Still, House of Cards has often veered into excess, sharing more DNA with Veep than All The President's Men as it careened from drama to black parody.

That seemed evident last season when the president decided to put his wife on the ticket as the vice-president. That sort of nepotism would be laughable — and arguably, it detracted from the realism of the show.

But then Trump put his daughter Ivanka in the White House and let his son-in-law Jared Kushner handle foreign affairs, all the while continuing to blatantly profit in his business from political connections while a special investigator decides whether his staff was colluding with Russians.

Rest in peace, House of Cards. You delivered a decent season with fine performances. But the world has, incomprehensibly, passed you by.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TELEVISION

House of Cards

- Season 5 premieres Tuesday on Netflix.
- Creator Beau Willimon has left, leaving veteran writers Melissa James Gibson and Frank Pugliese to take over as showrunners.

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ADVICE

Financial plans often misunderstood

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada



People always seem to want to debate the validity of a budget. Second only to insurance, budgets are the most misunderstood financial tool around.

People see them as constraining, like a too-tight pair of shoes that pinch and rub. People see them as rigid; think full-body cast. People see them as impossible, as in, "I've made lots of budgets but they never work!"

Budgets do work, and here are seven reasons to have one:

1. A budget is a plan

It's a reflection of your choices for how you will spend your hard-earned money. Without the plan, you're driving down the road with a blindfold on and it's only a matter of time before you run into the ditch.

2. A budget is a gauge

It lets you see if you are living

within your means. With easy credit, it is much harder to see that you're not making ends meet because you can fool yourself into thinking you've got it covered. If you have a budget and you faithfully plug your numbers in, the budget will tell you the truth.

3. A budget gives you control

You have dreams of things you'd like to have, places you'd like to go, experiences you'd like to ... well ... experience? With a budget, those dreams and aspirations don't have to go ignored because you keep getting to the end of the money before you get to the end of the month.

4. A budget anticipates expenses

Without a budget, people think of most of their less regular expenses as "unexpected." Having forgotten about the car insurance bill that comes once a year, they're shocked and surprised when the bill arrives. With a budget, not only would you know when to expect the bill, you'd have set aside 1/12 of the total each month so paying it would be no problem.

5. A budget keeps you focused

It's a lot harder to spend willy-

nilly when you're on a budget because you've accounted for where the money is going down to the last red cent. If you find a category isn't working because there's not enough in it, you have to cut from another category to make the budget balance. But every cent is accounted for. No surprises.

6. A budget eliminates squabbling

If you're mated to one of those people who have no self-control, a budget can be a relationship rescuer since it will reduce arguments about money, as in, "not until we put it in the budget."

7. A budget reduces stress

Perhaps the biggest benefit reported by people who finally get on a budget is that their stress is way reduced and they find that they sleep better! Following a budget means you eliminate unnecessary worrying over money and debt. You're confident that everything is figured out, and as long as you follow the budget, you've created a plan that will get you to where you want to be.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com



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Using farmers to save badgers

CONSERVATION

Endangered creatures rely on the help of farms to live

Owen Roberts
Urban Cowboy



Ontario's 200 endangered badgers are hanging on by a thread. And their habitat — perhaps even their future — depends a great deal on farmers.

Badgers live in burrows around the perimeters of farmers' fields and creek-sides. They're common in Western Canada and parts of the U.S., where they're sometimes scorned for leaving holes that can ruin expensive farm equipment.

But not in Ontario. Here, badgers are scarce and elusive.

Biologist Josh Sayers, leader of the Ontario Badger Project, a conservation program to save the grizzled grey creatures, calls them "ghost-like."

Indeed, because they're nocturnal, few people ever see them. Plus, they have a huge range that they move within every few days. One badger around Tillsonburg, Ont., called 80,000 acres home. That encompasses many farms.

"Because badgers' range is so broad, we need farmers to work together to help maintain habitat," says Sayers. "Nearly all of our work takes place on farms. For badgers, agriculture is huge."

Sayers has worked with farmers for eight years to help badgers survive. Through farm visits and through the project's website, he answers questions about these mysterious crea-



The nocturnal creatures are sometimes scorned in the U.S. for leaving damaging holes. PHOTOS: COURTESY ONTARIO BADGER PROJECT



THE FUTURE of FARMING

Badger spotting

Spot a badger burrow on a hike? Call the hotline 1-877-715-9299 (toll-free) or email info@ontariobadgers.org.

Badger burrows are about 10 inches in diameter and may have claw marks around their entrance. Call, too, if you find one killed on the road. It's better to do this sooner rather than later — before they decompose or become food for scavengers.

Kissin' cousins

Researchers set up Velcro "hair nags" at the top front of suspected badger burrows, to collect hair for DNA analysis. Because badger numbers are so few, studies can identify each badger through such analysis, and determine relationships between them — particularly, how inbreeding might be threatening the species' survival.

tures — their distribution and abundance, habitat, prey (they're carnivores), mortality, and how they fit into the agricultural landscape of southern Ontario.

It's an uneasy existence

for badgers here. This is the eastern fringe of their continental range, so they were never very plentiful here to begin with. And it doesn't take much to disrupt their ecosystems, like cities swal-



Researchers have fitted 10 badgers with radio transmitters before releasing them back into the wild.

lowing up Ontario farmland. That makes farmers' conservation efforts even more important.

But even at the best of times, how do you keep track of 200 badgers in a province the size of Ontario?

Well, besides registering

activity such as burrows and sightings (including road kill — see sidebar) Sayers and a handful of others, including researchers at the University of Guelph, have outfitted 10 badgers with small radio transmitters.

Through a dozen motion-

FARM poll

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activated trail cameras (sorry, no badger cam) strategically placed near known burrows, they monitor the animals' movement.

Such remote surveillance beats trying to follow a badger on foot, from county to county, or meeting one face to face, especially if it feels threatened. Badgers are known for punching above their weight, as seen in the video that went viral of the badger in Utah burying an entire cow carcass.

But despite their ferocity, badgers' future depends on farmers' help with habitat.

And they're getting it.

Over the past 30 years or so, various levels of government and conservation authorities have helped farmers replant thousands of acres of trees, and retire fragile land along creeks, rivers and lakes.

Those measures are vital for food, water and shelter for many wild animals, including badgers.

"There's a very strong and growing ethic in the farm community to appreciate and manage the landscape for biodiversity," says Harold Rudy, executive officer of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. "We run a lot of conservation programs and workshops for farmers across Ontario, and they are almost always sold out."

Owen Roberts is an agricultural journalist at the University of Guelph. Follow him on Twitter at @TheUrbanCowboy.



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TOP 150 FOR 150

CELEBRATING CANADA'S GIFTS TO THE WORLD

Canadian terror started in 3D

THE MASK

Magic Mystic Masks worn for Canada's first horror film

Sean Plummer

Canada's horror movie history didn't start with David Cronenberg. That honour belongs to *The Mask* (1961).

A low-budget, high-concept psychological thriller, it was not only our first horror film but the first Canadian film to be widely distributed by an American studio — and the first to be shot (partially) in 3D.

The surreal story follows a psychiatrist who finds an ancient mask that unleashes his inner demons whenever he puts it on — similar to the plot of Jim Carrey's 1994 hit, also called *The Mask*.

Moviegoers would know to put on their 3D glasses (called "Magic Mystic Masks") whenever a voice on screen intoned: "Put the mask on... now!"

A modest success, *The Mask* was re-released as *Eyes of Hell* in the early '70s and broadcast on Canadian TV in the early '80 during a brief resurgence of the 3D craze.

It has spawned a cult fanbase, and the Toronto International Film Festival, along with the 3D Archive, have recently restored *The Mask* to its original glory.



Still from *The Mask (Eyes of Hell)*, considered to be the first feature-length Canadian horror movie and also the first feature-length 3D film made in Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

World's largest perogy

Glendon, Alberta, located north of St. Paul, unveiled its centerpiece — a giant perogy statue, complete with fork — back in 1993.

Standing 8.2 metres tall and weighing nearly 3,000, the perogy is one of several odd roadside sculptures found in Canada's western provinces.

Apparently the fork was added after passersby confused the perogy for a cow pie.

SEAN PLUMMER



THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Canadian Potato Museum. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Now that's a big spud!

Love your spuds? Then head to the town of O'Leary, on Prince Edward Island's west side, to visit the Canadian Potato Museum.

Open mid-May to October and surrounded by potato fields, the museum, which

was opened in 1993, features a variety of potato farming implements and machines.

It offers tours and has a giant potato sculpture outside its doors so you take a selfie next to your favourite carb.

SEAN PLUMMER

DRIVING FORCE

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MAKE IT TODAY

Classy Macerated Strawberry and Mascarpone Mint Parfaits



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

These simple to assemble treats make a special dessert or breakfast.

Ready in 2 hours, 40 minutes

Prep time: 40 minutes

Makes: 6 to 8 parfaits

Ingredients

- 16 oz fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup mascarpone cheese
- 2 lemons, zest and juices
- 5 to 7 mint leaves, finely chopped
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract, divided
- 6 full-size graham crackers
- 1 cup oats
- 1/4 cup butter (1/2 stick), melted
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 cups whipping cream, plus 2 Tbsp
- 1 tsp lemon zest

Directions

1. Mix the strawberries with sugar and zest and juice of one lemon. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.
2. Mix the mascarpone with

lemon juice and zest, reserving 1 teaspoon for whipped cream. Add vanilla and sprinkle in mint. Stir in 1 tablespoon whipping cream. Blend until smooth.

3. Preheat oven to 325. Place graham crackers and oats in a food processor and buzz till like bread crumbs. Transfer to a bowl and mix in melted butter and two tablespoons brown sugar.

On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, spread crumbs out in an even layer. Bake 15 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown. Once cooled, store the crumbs in an airtight container or mason jar.

4. Using a stand mixer or electric hand mixer, mix whipping cream, lemon zest and vanilla until soft peaks form. Scoop into a piping bag.

5. Assembly: In a shallow dessert cup, put about two tablespoons of the graham mixture, two tablespoons of the mascarpone mix, a tablespoon or two of the strawberries, some more mascarpone and then top the whole lot off with some whipped cream and a teeny piece of fresh mint.

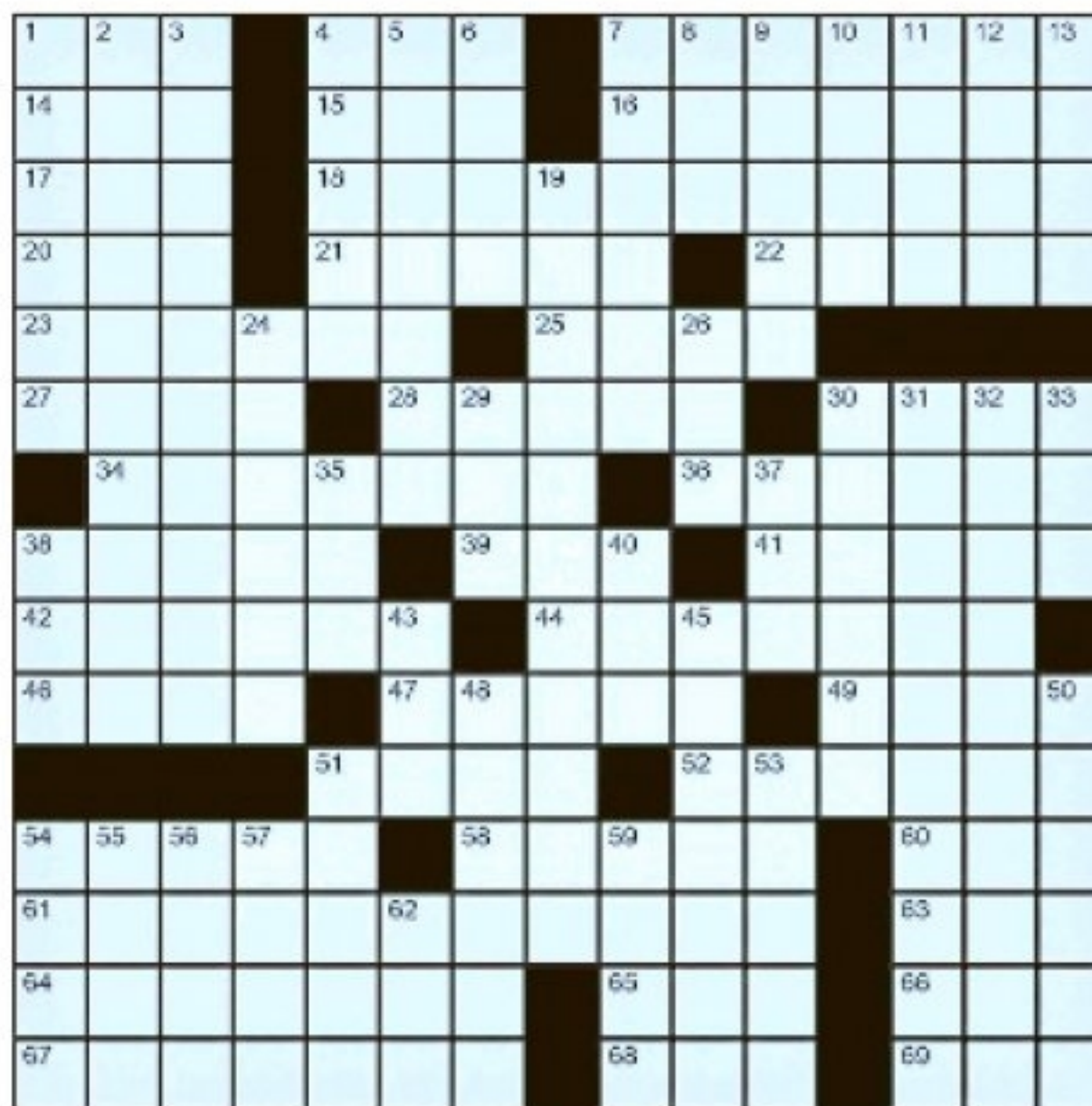
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Inclined
4. Humanities degs.
7. Montreal-born writer Mordecai
14. Thoroughfare topping
15. Qty.
16. Air Canada's in-flight magazine
17. Gladiator's 601
18. Grass emblem of Alberta: 2 wds.
20. US dog org.
21. ___ course (Soon enough)
22. Web commerce
23. Hamlet in Alberta north of Grande Prairie
25. Scream
27. Deer Lake's prov.
28. "Long Tall ___" by Little Richard
30. Climb
34. Luba hit tune: 3 wds.
36. Blood vessel implants
38. MasterCard rivals
39. Embassy diplomat [abbr.]
41. "Where ___": Beck hit in 1996
42. "The ___" by The Band
44. Double-reed instrument
46. SInS equivalents in The States
47. Humble
49. Ye's antiquated follower
51. Figure skater Johnny
52. Certain cars
54. Hidden hoard
58. Stranger



60. 'Persist' suffix
61. Provincial Park in Ontario sharing the name of the Lake Erie village where it is situated: 2 wds.
63. Marriage notice word
64. Outfits
65. From ___ Z

66. Late-summer fair in Toronto [acronym]
67. Sort of reddish-brown
68. Equivalent word in a thesaurus, for short
69. NFL field measurements

DOWN

1. When the first sunny crack in the day arrives: 2 wds.
2. Total tales: 3 wds.
3. Fills up bit by bit: 2 wds.
4. Comedian/actor Cheech
5. Amidst

6. Particular poker
7. Fix a shoe in a way
8. Like Beethoven's 'Pastoral' symphony, ___ Major
9. Angler's basket
10. Party thrower
11. ___ Brasi, "The Godfather" (1972) enforcer

12. Needle case
13. Merry dance
19. Bandleader of The Royal Canadians: 2 wds.
24. This is owned by me' info providers: 2 wds.
26. Variantly-spelled French lily
29. Range cooker name
30. Do some updating in the workshop
31. Financial woe
32. Emulate spiked hair: 3 wds.
33. Approx.
35. Suffix meaning 'like'
37. Shakespearean contraction
38. 'Das Auto,' cars, briefly
40. ___-relief
43. ___ Bo (Fitness system)
45. LXX
48. Diagnostic test
50. Makeup maven Ms. Lauder's
51. "What place?"
53. Joe ___ (Playwright of What the Butler Saw!)
54. Space sparkler
55. Anti-apartheid activist Desmond
56. ___ & Sciences
57. Water ___ (Summertime gear)
59. "Buenos ___"
62. However

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a playful, fun-loving day. You will enjoy socializing with others. Sporting events will particularly appeal to you, along with fun activities with children.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is more of a personal day for you. You might like to withdraw or retire somewhere quiet, especially your home where you can feel relaxed and protected.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is a fast-paced, busy day for you. The upside is that your daily environment is stimulating! You might meet new people and see new situations. You certainly can learn something new.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Money and possessions are a priority for you today. (You're never casual about money.) If out shopping, you will be careful and wise.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, boosting your energy and making you more emotional. This happens for two days each month. (Yes, the Moon will be in your sign tomorrow, too.)

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you have been high-viz lately (and this will continue this week), use today and tomorrow to catch your breath. Hide somewhere, if you can.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
An interaction with a female friend will be important today. You might want to discuss travel plans or something related to publishing, the media, medicine and the law.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a good day to think about your life's direction in general. What do you see for yourself in the next five years? What about this year?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are the traveller of the zodiac — no question. Today you would love to get away and see someplace different. If you can't, be a tourist in your own city.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Start this week by tying up loose details with taxes, debt, bills, inheritances and shared property. Get some of this stuff out of the way. (You'll love yourself for this later.)

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, because the Moon is opposite your sign today and tomorrow. This simply requires courtesy and cooperation.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Think about how you can get better organized today so that you feel more on top of your scene this week. Do you have any good ideas?

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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